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# Reasons of Commutation and Analysis of the Sources of Formation of Intraregional Population Movement Streams (by the Example of Zakarpats'ka Oblast')

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## Abstract

*The reasons of commutation of the region's population from rural to urban areas, as well as individual aspects of commutation processes in the region have been analyzed and investigated in the given scientific article. Both positive and negative consequences of the commutation of the population have been studied. The present population size and the scale of arrival and departure of the population in the context of natural economic areas of Zakarpats'ka oblast' have been analyzed.*

**Key words:** commutation, population migration, population size, reasons of migration.

**JEL Classification:** R12

## 1 Introduction

Current demographic situation in Ukraine causes a number of problems to deal with. Studying demographic processes, especially of migration are one the most urgent. At the time of independence of Ukraine migrations of population have passed several stages corresponding to certain periods of state of economy.

Problem of migration has been discussed in research papers of national and foreign scholars: T.A. Dragunova, L.A. Chvertko, S.I. Pirozhkov, O.V. Poznyak, M.D. Romanyuk, O.U. Homra and others. Those papers cover theoretical and methodological aspects of migrations, learn details of motivational causes of migration, both in rural and urban areas.

The purpose of current paper is to analyze the reasons of commutations (push-pull migrations) of rural inhabitants to cities, to define sources of internal regional flows of population (by the example of Zakarpats'ka oblast'). The paper is based on the analysis of statistical information provided by the General Statistical Office of Zakarpats'ka oblast'. The information has been processed by means of systematization, generalization, comparative analysis.

## 2 Body of Paper

Especially urgent problem lies in study of migration in less urbanized regions where agriculture and connected servicing activities are important parts of economy. Modern transformations in economic structure of the country resulted in high release of working

force; and low living standards and wages have become strong motivational factor of migrations of population in the region [1]

As of start of 2009 the General Statistical Office of Zakarpats'ka oblast' define 5 cities of regional level – Uzhgorod, Berehovo, Mukachevo, Khust, Tchop. Further analysis is based on study of commutations towards these cities.

At a whole, the population of Zakarpats'ka oblast' as of January 2009 was 1243.4 thousand persons [2]: 116,2 thousand of them living in Uzhgorod, 25,0 thousand in Berehovo 82,4 thousand in Mukachevo, 31,5 thousand in Khust and 8,8 in Tchop. [2]

As already mentioned, low living standards is one of the main reasons of commutations. Lower the analysis of wages in cities of Zakarpats'ka oblast' for the period of December 2007-December 2008 is given.

**Table 1: Average salaries in cities for the period of December 2007-December 2008**

	December 2007, UAH [2]	December 2008, UAH. [2]	For reference: November 2008, UAH [3]	Difference value 2007-2008	
				Absolute, +-	Relative, %
Zakarpats'ka oblast'	1370	1720	1515	350	125,5
Uzhgorod	1605	2013	1766	408	125,4
Berehovo	1004	1315	1207	311	131,0
Mukachevo	1409	1754	1466	345	124,5
Khust	1149	1536	1424	387	133,6
Tchop	1979	2084	1934	105	105,3

As shown in the table 1, salaries grew systematically. Thus, salaries in 2008 in Zakarpats'ka oblast' have grown by 25,5 % comparatively with 2007, that nominally comprises 350 UAH. The highest growth is in Khust– 33,6 %. There is rather high growth of income in December 2008 relating to November, but the growth shows to be only nominal while real incomes of population remained without changes or have even declined. Financial crisis has stroke national economy greatly, mostly because of plummeting of exchange rates of dollar and Euro. Our economy is so closely connected to dollar that even slight changes of rates cause strong changes of prices for goods in stores and at the market, so this salary is insufficient while taking into account of our prices. The crises resulted in strong decline of jobs; the so called 'restructuring' of personnel took place. Many specialists do not have any job or have to work at lower wages. Situation is complex, therefore today people are used to accept all propositions regardless the place where the enterprise is situated. It means that rural employees have more chances to find a job in cities, than in village. That is the reason of commutations.

Commutations are large-scale daily or regular population movements from places of living to places of work and back.

Commutations are fixed route movements of people from A point to B point with purpose of work, therefore a large share of urban and rural population is active in it. The reason of such kind of migration is absence of jobs in place of living and possibility of getting job in other places, which are close to it. In the course of commutation the spatial movement of one of the main productive resources takes place - the movement of working force. Such movement has cyclic (daily, weekly, monthly) character and as a rule, is not connected with the change of place of living.

But commutations are not only cyclic movements from place of work to place of living. Weekly trips from village to city for selling foodstuff are another type of it. In the course of such type of migration consumer exchange is conducted between workers and countrymen by means of goods and services markets. In such case material goods are not produced but transferred from one person to another [4].

We define three “attraction zones” in connection with cities: 1) less than 5 kilometers zone; 2) 5-15 kilometers zone; 3) above 15 kilometers zone.

Expert inquiry of people living close to cities of regional level - Uzhgorod, Berehovo, Mukachevo, Khust, T Chop, conducted by the author, showed the following results.



**Fig 1 Structure of commutations from attraction zones**

As it is evident from the figure 1, the first zone attracts 65% of citizen living at the territory closer than 5 kilometers, the second – about 25%, the third – 10%. So employees, living close to the cities prefer to search jobs rather in cities than in the country. Respectively rural people migrate daily for work in the cities and return home in the evening. This group of commutations includes also schoolchildren and students of universities. Certainly, the quality of teaching in urban school is higher than in rural one, therefore parents, who work in cities, try to send their children to urban schools. Students, who live in these zones as a rule travel for studies every day, which is connected with economic and social reasons. Therefore we

must denote better work conditions for people in urban area comparatively with rural areas as the general reason of commutations.

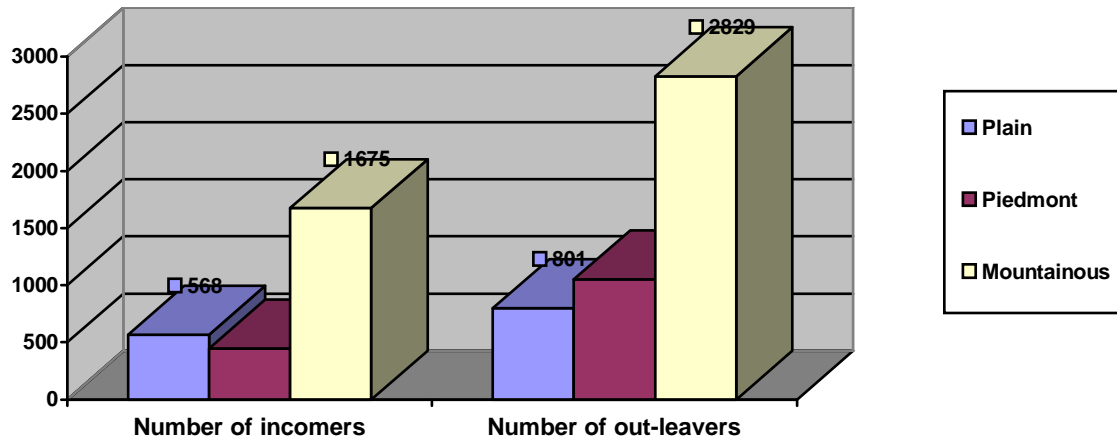
Zakarpats'ka oblast' has 13 administrative districts in three natural and economic zones: plain, piedmont and mountainous zones. Plain zone includes Berehivsky, Vynogradivsky, Mukachivsky and Uzhgorodsky districts. Piedmont zone includes Irshavsky Tyachivsky and Khustsky districts. Velykoberezhnyansky, Volovetsky, Mizhirsky, Perechynsky, Rakhivsky and Svalyavsky districts refer to mountainous districts.

Number of population and scales of its incoming and out coming movement regarding natural and economic zones of Zakarpats'ka oblast' is given in table 2:

**Table 2: Migration movement of population within the region in natural and economic zones of Zakarpats'ka oblast', 2007-2008**

Administrative districts:	2007			2008		
	Number of incomers [2]	Number of out-leavers [2]	Increase-decrease (-)	Number of incomers [2]	Number of out-leavers [2]	Increase-decrease (-)
<i>Plain natural and economic zone</i>						
Berehivsky	65	97	-32	61	110	-49
Vynogradivsky	288	366	-78	199	356	-157
Mukachivsky	244	241	3	189	241	-52
Uzhgorodsky	158	135	23	119	94	25
<i>Total</i>	755	839	-84	568	801	-233
<i>Piedmont natural and economic zone</i>						
Irshavsky	72	286	-214	109	266	-157
Tyachivsky	227	564	-337	193	509	-316
Khustsky	152	306	-154	144	278	-134
<i>Total</i>	451	1156	-705	446	1053	-607
<i>Mountainous natural and economic zone</i>						
Velykoberezhnyansky	82	116	-34	110	72	38
Volovetsky	115	167	-52	96	114	-18
Mizhgirsky	92	242	-150	87	149	-62
Perechynsky	53	105	-52	54	60	-6
Rakhivsky	154	404	-250	157	411	-254
Svalyavsky	127	175	-48	157	169	-12
<i>Total</i>	623	1209	-586	661	975	-314
<b><i>Total by region</i></b>	1829	3204	-1375	1675	2829	-1154

As it is evident from the table 2, rather high increase in balance of migration was in plain natural and economic zone in 2008. In 2007 it was –84 persons, in 2008 - -233 persons. Piedmont natural and economic zone shows rather bad results. In 2007 there arrived 451 persons and 1156 persons left the district, so that number of population decreased by 705 persons. We can make a conclusion, that the number of citizen, who left exceeds the number of those, who arrived. 1829 persons arrived in 2007 and twice as many left – 3204 persons, the same situation was in 2008. Because of this negative balance of migration the number of population in the region decreases, though Transcarpathia is one of the first regions where natural growth of population has begun after durable demographic crisis. This fact can be partially connected with migration, as in conditions of crisis it becomes even more difficult to find a job in small towns or villages. Therefore those who are able try to move to cities or try to find a job in neighboring towns causing commutations in such way. They travel to work in the morning and return home in the evening. Thus, most large enterprises find employees from district villages and transport them for work and home back after a shift. Using the data of table 2, we can describe the number of population and scales of migration of population in natural and economic zones of Zakarpats'ka oblast' in 2008.



**Fig. 2 Number of population and scales of migration of population in natural and economic zones of Zakarpats'ka oblast' in 2008**

As it is evident from the figure 2, the mountainous natural and economic zone is leading in number of out-leavers because of more difficult living conditions and limited economic activities, especially in agriculture. Mountainous and piedmont natural and economic zones have limited possibilities regarding jobs and are less developed in the sense of economy comparatively with plain district in both named matters.

### 3 Conclusions

Certainly, such travels have positive and negative effects. The positive ones include: enhancing of material state of employees due to work in cities, gaining new friends and colleagues, getting new possibilities of self-education and self-perfection in cities where different courses and additional studies for professional development are available.

Negative effects are as follows: daily travels towards cities for work, irrational spending of time for those travels, as one has to get up earlier in the morning. In addition, working far away from home deprives employees of opportunities to meet and spend time with relatives and children.

Elimination of negative effects of rural population commutations should be primarily a role of state and regional policy in regulating processes of migration.

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